Mr. P. Raman Menon (*Mulakunnathukavu*).— Are the conditions so bad?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*).—Conditions of next year cannot be foreseen. If the conditions demand it, it will done.

* **Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** (*Urakam*).—Sir, why I brought this resolution at this part of the time and why I did not make any speech is this. I think it is necessary to explain, because this was a subject which used to be discussed almost every year. This demand for the reduction of tax was being made by this House for the last 5 or 6 years consecutively. Government also used to give us some remissions. They gave us some remissions for 2 or 3 years. But last year I was not able to bring the motion in the Kumbhom meeting or Makarom meeting. In the Standing Finance Committee meeting I made a proposal that some remission should be given and I think—if I remember aright—I made a proposal here also in the open Council. But the Government said that there would be difficulties in balancing the budget, that they have already framed the budget on the basis of this income and that it would be impossible for them to balance the budget and that they would not be able to give any remission this year. So I thought I would be in time now to make the request to the Government to grant some remission for next year. The arguments that are for and against have been thoroughly thrashed out in this House, several times. So far as we are concerned we claim the remission of land tax on the ground that the depression has not lifted. But according to the Government probably they will say it has been lifted and that we are not entitled to get any remission. On that ground I think we have to differ and only a vote of this House and not a speech will be able to convince this House that the depression has not lifted. That is why I didn't want to make any speech in the beginning. I therefore commend this resolution for the acceptance of the House and request that it may be put and voted upon.

Motion was put and negatived.

Mr. President.—16 for and 17 against. The resolution is therefore lost.

34. Shifting of the Talappalli Magistrate's Court.

* **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** (*Vadakkancheri*).—'*This Council recommends to the Government that the Talappalli*

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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Magistrate's Court be shifted to the Public Office Buildings at Wadakkancherri".

Sir, I believe that the authorities would have understood by the enquiries made by them subsequent to a similar cut motion being moved in this House in the last budget session that the Talappalli Magistrate's Court is now housed in a dingy room where even during day-time light is required for the Magistrate to work. There is a block of buildings popularly known as the public office buildings at Wadakkancheri which consist of the Registrar's Office, the Munsiff's Court and the Taluk Office. Even in the existing buildings there is sufficient space to house the Magistrate's Court and if space is wanting, some adjustments could be made by shifting the Registry Office to the present Magistrate's Court building. It is a building which will suit the Registry Office. There are certain rooms where there is light. The clerical section of the office as also the Registrar can be housed in those rooms and the dark room which is now occupied as the Bench and the Bar of the Magistrate's Court may well be converted into the record room. If provision could not be made for the extension of the public office buildings or if the existing building is not sufficient even after shifting the Registry Office to the present Magistrate's Court building, the shifting of the Magistrate's Court to a better building is a desirable change. I understand that the D. P. W. through their Assistant Engineer at Wadakkancherri have inspected both the Magistrate's Court building and the public office buildings. I also understand that the suggestions of the officers at the place have also been placed before the Government. In this state of affairs, I hope that the Government will accept the resolution and do the needful in the matter.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. സി. ഇയ്യുക്കുട്ടി (*Pazhanji*).— സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിന്താങ്ങുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട വടക്കാഞ്ചേരി മെമ്പർ പറയുന്ന കാരണത്തോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ യോജിക്കുന്നില്ല. അതായത് റജിസ്ട്രാഫീസ് മജിസ്ട്രേട്ട കോർട്ടുള്ള സ്ഥലത്തേക്കു മാറി ആ സ്ഥലത്തു മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടകോടതി സ്ഥാപിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതിനോടു. ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടകോടതി ബിൽഡിംഗിൽ അശേഷം വെളിച്ചമില്ല. വളരെ പ്രയാസത്തോടുകൂടിയാണു് അവിടെ കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടുന്നതു്. ഒരു റജിസ്ട്രാഫീസുതന്നെ അവിടെ നടത്തുന്നതിനു പ്രയാസമാണു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഏതുതരത്തിലെങ്കിലും ഈ മജിസ്ട്രേട്ടകോടതി വേറെ ഒരു നല്ല സ്ഥലത്തേക്കു മാറ്റണ്ടതാണെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ യോജിക്കുന്നു.

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* **Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon** *(Chief Engineer).*— Since the receipt of this resolution we went into the question of accommodating the Magistrate's Court at Wadakkancheri. We found that it is not possible to accommodate the Magistrate's Office in the main public office buildings at Wadakkancheri. On further enquiry we find that this transfer of the Registry Office to the Magistrate's Office will also not be feasible. So, the only solution of this problem will be to construct a new building for the Magistrate's Court in the public office compound. The expenditure required for constructing this building was estimated to be about Rs. 5,000. Government will be glad to take up this work, if funds would permit.

* **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri).*— So what I am to understand is that the question of an expenditure of Rs. 5000 seems to stand in the way of the Government immediately accepting the proposition. (Hear, hear.) But the position of the Magistrate's court as understood by persons who have anything to do with that Court beginning with the Magistrate and ending with the convict is that it requires immediate shifting. The room where the Magistrate holds his Court is very small, about 15 feet wide and about 30 or 35 feet in length. That room consists of the space occupied by the bench, a circular bar with a large number of clients behind that bar with all the articles taken on search and other materials connected with criminal cases bundled up in one corner, having practically no moving space for a practitioner to go out if he is not urgently needed at the bar. That is the position of the Court. I do not understand what exactly the Government means by saying that the question of shifting and housing the Registry Office in this building is not feasible. If it is on the ground of want of light, as I pointed out before, there is a new witness shed, a decent building put up there. That room as also the other airy room will quite suffice to locate the Registrar as also the clerical establishment and the present room which is occupied by the bench, bar and the others where there is sufficient light at any rate for locating the records may be used as a record room. Probably, the non-feasibility mentioned by the Government may be due to the fact that the District Registrar is in charge of the Treasury and therefore he has to be in the same building as the one where the Treasury is working. That is the position that the Government maintained at a time when things different from what they are to day were obtaining. For example, the Magistrates were having a lot of touring in the

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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early days and they were almost always out in the villages holding the courts in some rural parts away from their permanent place. In such cases, Government felt that in the absence of the Tahsildar who is in charge of the Treasury, the Registrar will have to be in charge. Now on account of the change of position of the Magistrates namely that the Magistrates have to reduce their tours to a minimum and that, from experience, we find is confined to about one or two days in the whole month, in that altered state of affairs, there is no harm in asking the Magistrate to be in charge of the Treasury in the absence of the Tahsildar. Even now during the absence of the Tahsildar as also the Registrar it is the Magistrate who is in charge of the Treasury. Now that the Magistrate is almost always available on the spot, in the absence of the Tahsildar, the Magistrate can be put in charge of the Treasury. Therefore that question vanishes. The Registry Office can well be housed in the present Magistrate's court building. There is no holding of court or appearance of vakils or appearance of clients in the Registry Office as much as in the Magistrate's court. Of course, there are some persons who have to go to the Registry Office for which there is sufficient accommodation in the witness shed which is a decent building. Therefore it is quite easy and it will not be inconvenient from any stand point to house the Magistrate's office in the public office building. The Registry Office can be safely shifted to the present Magistrate's court building, shifting being a great necessity which has been stressed by the presiding Officers. If only more responsible officers of Government would step into the Magistrate's court on any day in the winter season, they will find the Magistrate monopolising the single lamp available for himself and the vakils left in complete darkness. Of course we have to supply light and we are supplying that to the best of our ability. But that is beside the point. In this state of affairs, if Government cannot find their way to spend Rs. 5000 for this very pressing need it strikes me as something not very desirable. Just to show the urgency of the need and the statement of the Government being that it will be looked into when funds permit,—a very vague and elastic term used by them—I would be only failing in my duty if I withdraw my resolution. It is my painful duty therefore to press it.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*— A word of explanation, Sir. It is not disputed that the accommodation in the Magistrate's Court is defective. The question of shifting the Magistrate's Court to the Registrar's Office, as was pointed out, is not possible, as there is no space in the

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Registry Office to accommodate the Magistrate's Court, though there may be sufficient space in the Magistrate's Court building to accommodate the Registrar's Office.

Secondly, as was pointed out, the Registrar is put in charge of the Treasury. Formerly, the Magistrate had to do a lot of camping work. It is stated now that as the touring work of the Magistrate has been reduced to a minimum, the Magistrate may be put in charge of the Treasury. A report was again called for from the District Magistrate and the District Magistrate is of opinion that if the Magistrate is put in charge of the treasury, it will seriously dislocate his work. Between these two positions there is no alternative but to put up a new building and the estimate of the Chief Engineer comes to Rs. 5000. The construction of a new building will have to wait till funds are available. The Diwan will also be inspecting the place. This matter is therefore engaging the attention of Government.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*.—Sir, in the light of what the Hon'ble the Secretary said that the Diwan will be pleased to have a look at the present Magistrate's Court building, I will not press it, because the moment a responsible Officer sees the condition of affairs there, that itself will be sufficient to find funds for spending upon the new building. If some such assurance can be had that the Diwan or the Secretary or some responsible officer of Government will come into the Magistrate's Court and have a look at it, I don't want to press it.

Mr. President.—That assurance has been given.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*.—Then I beg leave to withdraw the resolution.

Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

35. Anti-Indian and Anti-Malayalee Agitation in Ceylon.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*.—*"This Council recommends to the Government that the Government of India be requested to take effective steps to stop the vigorous anti-Indian and anti-Malayalee agitation carried on in Ceylon"*.

Our Government cannot take any direct action in the matter. But it can make suitable representation to the

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